UNITED
NATIONS

CCPR

International Covenant on civil and political rights

Distr
GENERAL

CCPR/C/140
14 January 2000

Original: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Sixty-eighth session
New York
13-31 March 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The sixty-eighth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 31 March 2000. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 13 March 2000 at 10.30 a.m. There will be no meetings on Thursday, 16 March (Êid Al-Adha).

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6, which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-eighth session.

5. At its sixty-seventh session, the Committee decided that a working group, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its sixty-eighth session. The working group is scheduled to meet at the United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 10 March 2000.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters.

3. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

   (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

4. Issues for the twelfth meeting of Chairpersons.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

7. General comments of the Committee.

8. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

9. Follow-Up on Views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Pursuant to rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda shall be the first item of the provisional agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its sixty-seventh session that a combined pre-sessional working group would deal with communications under the Optional Protocol to be examined during the sixty-eighth session, and would also address issues under article 40 of the Covenant and prepare lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the sixty-ninth session in July. The Committee will continue its discussion of methods of work with a view to adopting guidelines on the adoption of concluding observations, consider ways of overcoming the backlog of State party reports and of communications awaiting examination, further consider the mainstreaming of gender issues, and explore ways of obtaining strengthened secretariat support, including through the adoption of a plan of action.

3. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

(a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, substantive resolutions on treaty-based bodies are adopted biennially ("odd years"). On 17 December 1999 the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/157, entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights".

(b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

A note indicating matters raised in the course of the discussion of the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments by the Third Committee together with the relevant General Assembly resolution will be circulated to members of the Committee.

4. Issues for the twelfth meeting of Chairpersons

The Committee will consider issues to be brought to the attention of the twelfth meeting of Chairpersons to be held in Geneva in June 2000.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A. Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 6 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties:

Initial reports

State party	Symbol	Date due	Date received
Croatia	CCPR/C/HRV/99/1	1993	19 November 1999
Uzbekistan	CCPR/C/UZ/99/1	1996	15 September 1999
Kyrgyzstan	CCPR/C/113/Add.1	1996	5 May 1998
Kuwait	CCPR/C/120/Add.1	1997	18 May 1998

Second periodic reports

Ireland	CCPR/C/IRL/98/2	1996	29 September 1998
Gabon	CCPR/C/128/Add.1	1998	6 February 1998
Switzerland	CCPR/C/CH/98/2	1998	29 September 1998
Guatemala	CCPR/C/GTM/99/2	1998	6 October 1999

Third periodic reports

Trinidad and Tobago	CCPR/C/TRT/99/3*	1990	15 September 1999
Australia	CCPR/C/AUS/98/3	1991	28 August 1998
Netherlands (Antilles)	CCPR/C/NET/99/3/Add.1	1991	10 February 1999
Dominican Republic	CCPR/C/DOM/99/3*	1994	29 September 1999
Argentina	CCPR/C/ARG/98/3	1997	20 July 1998

Fourth periodic reports

State party	Symbol	Date due	Date received
Yugoslavia	CCPR/C/YUG/99/4	1993	5 March 1999
Trinidad and Tobago	CCPR/C/TRT/99/4*	1995	15 September 1999
Australia	CCPR/C/AUS/98/4	1996	28 August 1998
Netherlands (Antilles)	CCPR/C/NET/99/4/Add.1	1996	10 February 1999
Peru	CCPR/C/PER/98/4	1998	3 July 1998
Denmark	CCPR/C/DNK/98/4	1998	30 December 1998
Dominican Republic	CCPR/C/DOM/99/4*	1999	29 September 1999

* combined third and fourth reports.

Fifth periodic reports

Ukraine	CCPR/C/UKR/99/5	1999	20 September 1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	CCPR/C/UK/99/5	1999	11 October 1999

B. Reports due

For the situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant reference is made to chapter III and annex III of the Committee's 1999 report to the General Assembly (A/54/40).

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-eighth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairperson and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Congo CCPR/C/63/Add.5	Second	Monday Tuesday	13 March p.m. 14 March a.m.
Afghanistan CCPR/C/57/Add.5	Second	Wednesday	15 March a.m. and p.m.
United Kingdom (Jersey, Isle of Man) CCPR/C/95/Add.10	Fourth	Friday	17 March a.m. and p.m.
Venezuela CCPR/C/VEN/98/3	Third	Monday Tuesday	20 March p.m. 21 March a.m.
Mongolia CCPR/C/103/Add.7	Fourth	Wednesday Thursday	22 April p.m. 23 March a.m.
Guyana CCPR/C/Guy/99/2	Second	Friday Monday	24 March p.m. 27 March a.m.

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session.

7. General comments of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will continue consideration of the second reading of the draft general comment on article 3 (gender equality) and of the first reading of the draft general comment on article 4 (non-derogable rights under the Covenant).

8. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and sixty-seven communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Thirty-six of these communications have already been declared admissible and are pending a decision on the merits, i.e. Views under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol. Pursuant to the Committee's new rules of procedure allowing the joint examination of admissibility and merits in appropriate cases, the Committee's examination of the remaining 131 communications may result in the adoption of Views, or in decisions declaring the communications admissible or inadmissible. In addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur on new communications.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

9. Follow-Up on Views

Under this item the Committee will assess the status of follow-up activities under the Optional Protocol and examine periodic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur for the follow-up of Views. Meetings between the Special Rapporteur and representatives of States parties will be held.